



LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST OF SOUTH WOOD COUNTY
United in Purpose - Igniting Hope Through Love

May 2019

NEW PARTNER CHURCH



Last month we welcomed our fifteenth partner church, Bethlehem Lutheran in Nekoosa.

The vision of Bethlehem is to *“grow the body of Christ by providing an inviting atmosphere that educates according to God’s truth, encourages everyone in the love of Jesus and equips people of all ages to spread the good news of the Gospel.”*

The pastor is Dennis Schwalenberg pictured below. We welcome Bethlehem and look forward to our future work together to “mobilize churches and transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.”



LOVE INC VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

Partner Church St. Luke’s “Veterans of the Cross” (VOC) were recognized at the recent volunteer recognition breakfast. Pictured from left are Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Zach Vruwink, VOC members Tom Sachs, Phil Johnson, and Ron Herman, as well as Miss Wisconsin, Tiana Vanderhei.

The Veterans of the Cross have performed numerous projects at Love INC including repairs, reconstruction, and remodeling many of the rooms including the new board room. We are very thankful to them for sharing their God-given gifts and talents with us.

ANNUAL DINNER

Love INC will be holding its first ever Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 9th at our building starting at 5:30pm. The agenda includes dinner, a short program, and volunteer recognition. RSVPs are required for dinner preparations. Call 715-424-LOVE (5683) to RSVP.

CONNECTION CENTER LOVE STORY

“Lisa” is a Christian woman with a heart for helping others. She attends a partner church and is involved in the community. Lisa felt discouraged at the time when she reached out to Love INC.

Her family was struggling financially, and she had several things going on in her life. She was looking for childcare after school for her child with special needs. Her husband was unemployed, and they were behind in rent. Lisa works full-time and has gone back to school to continue her education. The Intake Specialist was encouraging as she prayed with Lisa about her family’s needs.

We reached out to Lisa after the verification process was completed. Lisa was excited to let us know that “our prayers were effective”. Her husband was offered a job two days after the Intake Specialist prayed with her. She received assistance from a partner church for rent and also found childcare for her child.

Love INC gave Lisa information about a scholarship she may qualify for to help with her fall tuition. Lisa is continuing to work with a partner church Ally Program for financial counseling and emotional support.



MARCH DATA

For the month of March, the connection center received 63 calls with 21 new requests for assistance. We had 19 referrals to Love INC with 4 from partner churches and 4 from community agencies.

The top needs were for:

- Service Needs – 11
- Financial Assistance – 7
- Material Needs – 3
- Transportation - 3

Through the month 19 needs were met, 10 by partner churches and 9 from community agencies.

DONATION OPTIONS



Donorbox is our new giving platform that utilizes both Stripe and PayPal for donation processing. We have heard from donors who desire more options to give; specifically sustained giving options (monthly, etc.) Based on some great input from fundraising experts we have set up an account. This will allow ACH (Automatic Clearing House – direct bank transfers) from any financial institution. Click on the link below to explore these new options!

[Donorbox Giving Options](#)



LOVE INC 101

Would you like to learn more about Love INC of South Wood County? Please consider attending a one-hour informational session which includes a building tour.

Sessions are held the third Thursday of each month. For your convenience, we have sessions scheduled for both Noon and 6:00pm. The next session will be Thursday, May 16th. If this month doesn't work for you, plan to come to another session in the coming months.



LEADER TO LEADER WORKSHOPS

Love INC of South Wood County and LEADER TO LEADER™ NETWORK have completed their winter workshop series in April with "Thinking About Thinking". We greatly appreciate this collaboration to invest in leadership development because we understand the importance of raising up servant leaders and building strong teams to impact our communities.

We invite you to join us next season for more workshops designed to strengthen you and your team.



DATES TO NOTE

Thursday, May 2nd National Day of Prayer Open House — Join us as we turn to God in meditation and prayer. The theme for this year is Love One Another. "Love one another, just as I have loved you." John 13:34 We will have the Training Center open from 7am- 3pm. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Monday, May 20th Love INC Business Dinner — Business owners are invited to come network over dinner with other engaged business owners. Learn more about Love INC and join the conversation about how your business can make a lasting, transformational difference in the lives of our neighbors in need and the community. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm with the program to end at 8:00pm.

Friday, June 7th Love INC Ambassador Breakfast — As we move forward with uniting the church and serving the community, each Love INC Ambassador at your church will participate in a session designed to keep your Church informed and assist in your Church's engagement with Love INC of SWC. Breakfast is served at 7:30am with the meeting ending at 9:30am.

Prayer:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, they should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

– James 1:5

Lord, we ask that wisdom be poured out upon us as we make daily decisions about our Love INC ministry and our personal lives. In your blessed name we pray. Amen.